

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended here is respectfully requested.

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the interview of March 29, 2005. As discussed at the interview, an important feature of the present invention is that the disks are mounted on the shaft so that they can rotate with respect to each other as the pet chew is being bitten by an animal. Moreover, the pet chew further includes at least one hub positioned to space two adjacent disks at a predetermined distance selected to insure that as the disks rotate with respect to each, they clean the pet's teeth. These features of the invention are incorporated in the pending independent claims.

In addition, as described in claims 36-39, the scrubbing elements on the disks include nubs and tips extending radially. Each nub may be split into several tips as illustrated in Fig. 1.

As discussed at the interview, none of the prior art references disclose a pet chew having these features. For example, Ganson discloses a flexible foam construction toy set which includes inter alia two disk shaped elements 102, 104 disposed on a circular tube. However, since these are all foam elements, they are obviously maintained in place with by an interference fit with the tube 50d and hence, inherently, they cannot be rotating with respect to the tube or with respect to each other. Moreover, since this is a toy with elements disposed rather randomly, the spacing between the disks is obviously immaterial. However, in the present invention, as discussed above, the spacing is important to insure that while a pet bites the chew, his teeth are engaged between two disks. This distance is maintained by a hub positioned between the disks. No such hub is disclosed or suggested by Ganson. Moreover, in

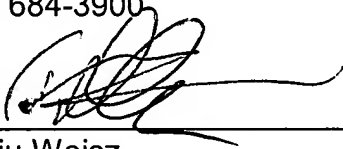
Ganson, disk 102 is provided with tubes 50q. However these tubes do not have tips as recited in the new claims 36-39.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is patentably distinguishable over the prior art and therefore it is now in condition for allowance.

Although no fees are deemed necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to use Deposit Account No. 07-1730, Docket 4316/037 for any fees that may be required. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 27, 2005
New York, New York